

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor errors. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner should note that Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 7.

Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,351,255 to Ishizuka et al. (Ishizuka). As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 5. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ishizuka as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,191,779 to Taguchi et al. As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 2. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ishizuka as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,522 to Erhart et al. As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 3. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ishizuka as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,239,777 to Sugahara et al. As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 4. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ishizuka as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,404,031 to Sasaki et al (Sasaki).

As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 6. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

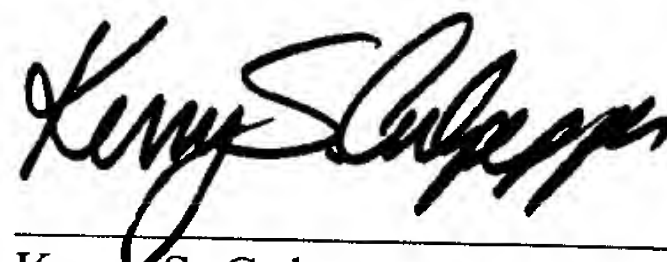
Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Sasaki as applied to claim 6 and further in view of Ishizuka. As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 7. Therefore, this rejection will not be discussed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8 – 10 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Although no additional fees are believed to be due, permission is given to charge any additional unforeseen fees to Deposit Account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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